

Responsive to the Official Action dated August 16, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claim for corresponding claim previously presented. A copy of the amended claim showing current revisions is attached.

17. (Amended) A luminescently labeled component of an aqueous liquid comprising a luminescent dye detectable by luminescence and selected from the group consisting of cyanine, merocyanine and styryl dyes containing at least one sulphonate or sulphonic acid attached to an aromatic nucleus said dye being covalently reactive with and being bound to said component.